

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested. Claims 1-6 and 9-12 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 stands rejected. Claim 2 was objected to as being independent on a rejected base claim, but was indicated allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 3-6 and 9-12 are allowed.

Claims Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by **Masahisa et al.** (Computer Translation of JP 09-139877). For the reasons set forth in detail below, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Masahisa et al. disclose an electronic still camera that includes an image-pickup device (CCD), and is connectable with a card-type recording medium 3, such as a PCMCIA card, for storing photographic images.

The Examiner asserts that an engage claw 11a and an attachment disengage button 11b of **Masahisa et al.** correspond to the claimed reinforcing portion recited in claim 1. However, the engaged claw 11a locks a connection between the camera and the card-type recording medium 3, and the attachment disengage button 11b disconnects the camera from the card-type recording medium 3.

In contrast to the presently claimed invention, the engage claw 11a and the attachment disengage button 11b do not serve to reinforce the connection between the electronic camera and the card-type recording medium 3. More particularly, **Masahisa et al.** does not disclose or

suggest the presently claimed reinforcing portion, “wherein said reinforcing portion reduces a moment force applied to said connector, which moment force is caused by a weight of the image pickup device.” As previously noted, the engage claw 11a and the attachment disengage button 11b do not reinforce the connection between the electronic camera and the image card-type recording medium 3 in a manner that reduces a moment force applied to the connector and caused by the weight of the image pickup device.

In accordance with the present invention, a reinforcing portion enforces the connection of an electronic camera and an electronic apparatus, and serves to prevent the connector portion from breaking under the weight of the electronic camera.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the prior art and therefore defines allowable subject matter. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under § 102 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and accompanying remarks, it is submitted that all pending claims are in condition allowance. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection and an indication of allowability of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that there are issues remaining to be resolved in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite and complete prosecution of this case.

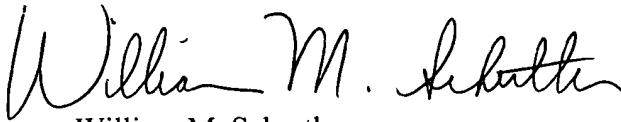
Application No. 09/594,513
Group Art Unit: 2615

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Attorney Docket No.: 000760

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "William M. Schertler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "William" being the most prominent.

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